

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A moldable-foam molding with a density from 8 to 200 g/l, obtainable via fusion of prefoamed foam beads comprising expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer materials, wherein the pelletized polymer materials comprise from 1 to 50% by weight of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina and glass beads.
2. (Withdrawn) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 1, wherein the prefoamed foam beads include cells of which more than 80% are of closed-cell type.
3. (Withdrawn) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 1, wherein the polymer materials include a styrene polymer.
4. (Withdrawn) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 1, wherein the filler is present from 5 to 30% by weight.
5. (Withdrawn) The moldable foam molding according to claim 1, wherein the filler has an average particle diameter from 1 to 50 μm .
6. (Withdrawn) The moldable foam molding according to claim 1, further comprising from 0.1 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.

7. (Previously presented) An expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material which comprises from 5 to 50% by weight of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina and glass beads.

8. (Previously presented) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7,

further comprising from 2 to 40% by weight of expandable graphite with an average particle size from 10 to 1000 μm ,

from 0 to 20% by weight of red phosphorus or an organic or inorganic phosphate, phosphite or phosphonate, and

from 0 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.

9. (Previously presented) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7, which comprises from 3 to 7% by weight of an organic blowing agent.

10. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer materials, comprising the steps of

a) incorporating an organic blowing agent and from 5 to 50% by weight of a filler into a polymer melt using a static or dynamic mixer at a temperature of at least 150°C,

b) cooling the polymer melt to a temperature of 120°C or less,

c) discharge via a die plate with holes whose diameter is at most 1.5 mm, and

d) pelletizing the melt downstream of the die plate under water at a pressure from 1 to 20 bar.

11. (Withdrawn) A process for producing moldable-foam moldings according to claim 1, which comprises using hot air or steam to prefoam expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer materials comprising 5 to 50% by weight of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina and glass beads in a first step to give foam beads whose density is in the range from 8 to 200 g/l, and fusing the material in a second step in a closed mold.

12. (Withdrawn) The moldable foam molding according to claim 4, wherein the filler has an average particle diameter from 1 to 50 μm .

13. (Withdrawn) A moldable-foam molding prepared by a process comprising:
providing prefoamed foam beads, wherein the foam beads comprise polymer materials and from 5 to 30% by weight of one or more fillers selected from the group consisting of talc, chalk, kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, aluminum nitrite, aluminum silicate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, silica, powdered quartz, Aerosil, alumina and glass beads, the prefoamed foam beads having been exposed using hot air or steam; and

fusing the prefoamed foam beads in a closed mold, wherein the density of the molding is from 8 to 200 g/l.

14. (Withdrawn) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, wherein the preformed foam beads include cells of which more than 80% are of closed-cell type.

15. (Withdrawn) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, wherein the polymer materials are styrene-based materials, and the filler has an average particle diameter of from 1 to 50 μm .

16. (Withdrawn) The moldable-foam molding according to claim 13, wherein the prefoamed foam beads comprise 2 to 40% by weight of expanded graphite with an average particle size from 10 to 1,000 μm .

17. (New) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7, further comprising 0.1 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.

18. (New) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7, wherein the polymer materials include a styrene polymer.

19. (New) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7, wherein the filler is present from 5 to 30% by weight.

20. (New) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 7, wherein the filler has an average particle diameter from 1 to 50 μm .

21. (New) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 8, comprising from 0.1 to 10% by weight of carbon black or graphite.

22. (New) The expandable pelletized thermoplastic polymer material according to claim 8, comprising 1 to 10% by weight of red phosphorus, organic or inorganic phosphate, phosphate or phosphonate.